R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Each of claims 1-9 has been amended to correct various minor informalities and to more clearly and positively recite the features of the present invention.

It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that the amendments to the claims are not related to patentability, and do not narrow the scope of the claims either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 5,555,099 ("Telle"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed.

According to the present invention as recited in claim 1, for example, a document scanning apparatus for scanning a

document, generating image data, and storing the image data is
provided which comprises:

first scanning means for sequentially transporting documents
mounted in a document tray to a scan position and scanning the
documents at the scan position, thereby generating image data
corresponding to the documents;

second scanning means for scanning a document placed on a
document glass plane without transporting the document, thereby
generating image data corresponding to the document;

continued instruction acceptance means for accepting an
instruction for one of continuation of document scanning and
completion of document scanning after one of: (i) the first
scanning means scans all documents mounted in the document tray
and (ii) the second scanning means scans the document placed on
the document glass plane;

selection means for responding to the instruction for
continued document scan, accepted by the continued instruction
acceptance means, and for selecting one of the first scanning
means and the second scanning means according to a predetermined
rule, and for allowing selected scanning means to start scanning
additional documents; and

storage control means for storing newly generated image data
corresponding to the additional documents as additional image

data subsequent to previously stored image data, wherein one of

the first scanning means and the second scanning means provides

the newly generated image data until the continued instruction

acceptance means accepts the instruction for completing the

scanning of documents.

That is, according to the present invention as recited in

independent claim 1, either the first scanning means (automatic

document feeder) or second scanning means (manual feed

processing) is used to scan a document(s) and store the acquired

image data in the storage means. Then an instruction is given to

either continue or end the scanning session. If the scanning

session is continued, the apparatus determines which of the first

or second scanning means will scan the additional documents. And

the image data from additional scanned documents are then stored

in positions subsequent to the image data acquired from the

original scanned document(s).

Thus, according to the present invention as recited in

independent claim 1 (and corresponding method claim 8), when a

document is scanned (by one of the first or second scanning

means), image data of the scanned document(s) is stored

subsequent to image data of a document or documents scanned

before (by the other scanning means). In this way, the claimed

present invention enables the creation of, for example, a 4-page

document including 3 pages of a sheet document and 1 page of a
book document by performing only scanning operations in a single
job. In fact, with the structure of the present invention as
recited in claim 1, no special operations are necessary in
creating such a 4-page document.

According to the present invention as recited in independent
claim 5, moreover, a document scanning apparatus for scanning a
document, generating image data, and storing the image data is
provided which comprises:

scanning means for scanning the document, thereby generating
image data corresponding to the document;

continued instruction acceptance means for accepting an
instruction for one of continuation of document scanning and
completion of document scanning after termination of scanning of
the document by the scanning means;

conditional instruction acceptance means for accepting an
instruction of a specified scan condition when the continued
instruction acceptance means awaits an instruction whether to
continue scanning documents;

continued scan control means for allowing the scanning means
to start scanning additional documents under a scan condition
updated by an instruction most recently accepted by the
conditional instruction acceptance means in response to

acceptance of an instruction to continue scanning documents by the continued instruction acceptance means; and

storage control means for storing newly generated image data corresponding to the additional documents as additional image data subsequent to previously stored image data, wherein the scanning means provides the newly generated image data until the continued instruction acceptance means accepts the instruction for completion of scanning documents.

That is, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 5, after the scanning means scans a document, the continued instruction acceptance means accepts an instruction for whether or not to continue scanning. While the continued instruction specification means waits for an instruction on whether or not to continue scanning, the conditional instruction acceptance means may be used to change scanning parameters, such as image quality and image density. Once the scanning parameters have been updated via the conditional instruction acceptance means, and the continued instruction acceptance means is instructed to continue printing, the continued scan control means allows scanning of additional documents to take place using the updated scanning parameter. The image data from additional scanned documents are then stored in positions subsequent to the image data acquired from the original scanned document.

Thus, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 5 (and corresponding method claim 9), even if a scan condition is changed during scanning of a series of documents, the image data of documents scanned after the change of the scan condition is stored successively to image data of documents scanned before the change of the scan condition. As a result, the scan condition may be changed without ending a scanning job. For example, adjustments may be made to switch scan density in accordance with a document to be scanned.

In summary, as described in the specification at page 24, line 23 to page 25, line 7 and at page 33, lines 15 to 18, according to the present invention a user can scan documents by combining various scanning conditions and scanning means, without interrupting the scanning job. And even when the conditions and means are changed, the acquired image data is still stored as a single job.

By contrast, Telle merely discloses a scanning operation which scans all pages according to a single condition and then creates a proof set for review. After the proof set is formed, the user may select one of the proof images to be replaced by a re-scanned page using different conditions. (See, for example, the Abstract of Telle.)

It is respectfully submitted that Telle does not disclose, teach or suggest the above described features of the claimed present invention whereby a job may be interrupted to change the scanning means or scanning conditions without ending the job. In fact, according to the teachings of Telle, the entire job must be completed and stored in the job image buffer 48 before the proof set can be viewed and changes to the scanning method can be made.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in each of independent claims 1, 5, 8 and 9, as well as each of claims 2-4, 6 and 7 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Telle, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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